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Sent: 2017-10-03T16:16:42-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: NM Briefing Paper
Received: 2017-10-03T16:16:47-04:00
National Monument Review Briefing Paper 7.26.17.docx

Here is the Briefing Paper
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**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

DATE: July 26th, 2017

FROM: Mike Nedd, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management

SUBJECT: BLM Actions Associated with the National Monument Review

This memo provides an update on Bureau of Land Management actions for the review of National Monuments as outlined in Executive Order 13792 on the Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.

KEY FACTS

Stakeholder Positions: The Executive Order and the review of National Monuments has received substantial public interest. Over 1.46 million public comments were recorded through the regulations.gov portal. However, comments are still under review and the total may be much higher (potentially exceeding two million comments). July 10th was the deadline for public comment related to the review, and staff are still working on comment review.

Local and State government leaders from across the United States have expressed interest in the review. Members of Congress, State governments, national organizations, and local groups have expressed a range of opinions, including support for: rescission of designations, decreasing monument size, making minor adjustments, increasing the size of designations, and maintaining current designations.

Public Lands Affected: 18 BLM managed or co-managed National Monuments are included in the review, and cover over ten million acres. Three of those monuments are co-managed with the Forest Service (Bears Ears, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Sand to Snow) and two are co-managed with the Park Service (Craters of the Moon and Grand Canyon-Parashant). The Secretary of Interior has announced that Canyons of the Ancients, Craters of the Moon and Upper Missouri River Breaks are no longer under review; this leaves 15 BLM managed or co-managed National Monuments under review.

BACKGROUND

Executive Order 13792 initiated the review, by the Department of the Interior (DOI), of National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act since January 1, 1996 that exceed 100,000 acres. The review includes a public comment period, Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Sessions, leadership site visits, and the collection of data associated with each National Monument.

DISCUSSION

The BLM continues to assist with the National Monument with the review in many ways. The BLM provided responses to the data call for all 18 National Monuments. For co-managed units, the BLM collaborated with the US Forest Service and National Park Service on each request, though each agency is submitting individual companion documents. The BLM monument review team continues to work with the DOI and BLM State and field offices to address questions for each National Monument under review. The BLM is conducting briefings, supporting leadership site visits, responding to follow-up requests, and has provided a team of BLM staff to complete the public comments review.

The BLM Washington Office, in coordination with the BLM State and field offices, has completed review of 14 DOI produced economic reports. The reviewed reports are for: Bears Ears, Grand Canyon-Parashant, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Cascade-Siskiyou, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, Canyons of the Ancients, Carrizo Plain, Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, Gold Butte, Basin and Range, Vermilion Cliffs, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, and Rio Grande del Norte National Monuments. BLM is in the process of reviewing the few remaining DOI produced economic reports for Craters of the Moon, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monuments.

NEXT STEPS

The BLM will continue to provide information as requested and support the public comment review. The DOI is expected to develop a final report including recommendations for the President.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1 - NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW TIMELINE

ATTACHMENT 2 - BLM MANAGED OR CO-MANAGED NATIONAL MONUMENTS BEING INITIALLY REVIEWED PURSUANT TO CRITERIA IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13792

ATTACHMENT 1 - NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW TIMELINE

This table outlines dates of importance for the National Monument review:

| Date | Item/Event |
|---------------------------------|---|
| April 26th, 2017 (Wednesday) | <u>Executive Order 13792</u> - Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act |
| April 28, 2017 (Friday) | <u>Executive Order 13795</u> - Implementing An America-First Offshore Energy Strategy |
| May 5th, 2017 (Friday) | <u>Interior Department Releases List of Monuments Under Review</u> , Announces First-Ever Formal Public Comment Period for Antiquities Act Monuments |
| May 11th, 2017 (Thursday) | <u>Federal Register Notice: DOI-2017-0002</u> - Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Released |
| May 12th, 2017 (Friday) | <u>Public Comment Period</u> - Review of Certain National Monuments established Since 1996 opens on regulations.gov |
| May 12th, 2017 (Friday) | BLM Monument Manager Notification - BLM Assistant Director for the National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships notified BLM employees of data call regarding National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. |
| May 17th, 2017 (Wednesday) | Deadline for Information from BLM Utah - Information on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument due to WO-400 |
| May 25th, 2017 (Thursday) | Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session Hilton DoubleTree Lloyd Center 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232, (In conjunction with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Conference) |
| May 26th, 2017 (Friday) | Bears Ears National Monument Comment Deadline - To ensure consideration, written comments from the public relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted before May 26, 2017. |

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| May 30th, 2017 (Tuesday) | Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session Northern Hotel, 19 North Broadway, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 867-6767 |
| June 1st, 2017 (Thursday) | Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 262-6225 |
| June 2nd, 2017 (Friday) | Deadline for Information from all other States - Information on all non-Utah National Monuments is due to WO-400. |
| June 10th, 2017 (Saturday) | Review Interim Report Approximate Deadline - “Within 45 days of the date of [Executive Order 13792], the Secretary shall provide an interim report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section with respect to Proclamation 9558 of December 28, 2016 (Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument), and such other designations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for inclusion in the interim report.” |
| June 12, 2017 (Monday) | Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session Mohegan Sun, 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, CT 06382, (In conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference) |
| July 10th, 2017 (Monday) | Comment Deadline for all other National Monuments - Written comments relating to all National Monuments, other than Bears Ears National Monument (Comments were due before May 26th), must be submitted before July 10, 2017. |
| August 24, 2017 (Thursday) | Review Report Approximate Deadline - “Within 120 days of the date of [Executive Order 13792], the Secretary shall provide a final report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section. The final report shall include recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.” |

**ATTACHMENT 2 –
BLM MANAGED OR CO-MANAGED NATIONAL MONUMENTS BEING INITIALLY
REVIEWED PURSUANT TO CRITERIA IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13792**

Please note: this table includes the National Monuments no longer under review.

| Monument | Location | Year(s) | Acreage |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Basin and Range | Nevada | 2015 | 703,585 |
| Bears Ears (BLM and USFS) | Utah | 2016 | 1,353,000 |
| Berryessa Snow Mountain (BLM and USFS) | California | 2015 | 330,780 |
| Canyons of the Ancients | Colorado | 2000 | 175,160 |
| Carrizo Plain | California | 2001 | 204,107 |
| Cascade-Siskiyou | Oregon | 2000/2017 | 100,000 |
| Craters of the Moon (BLM and USPS) | Idaho | 1924/2000 | 737,525 |
| Gold Butte | Nevada | 2016 | 296,937 |
| Grand Canyon-Parashant (BLM and USPS) | Arizona | 2000 | 1,014,000 |
| Grand Staircase-Escalante | Utah | 1996 | 1,700,000 |
| Ironwood Forest | Arizona | 2000 | 128,917 |
| Mojave Trails | California | 2016 | 1,600,000 |
| Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks | New Mexico | 2014 | 496,330 |
| Rio Grande del Norte | New Mexico | 2013 | 242,555 |
| Sand to Snow (BLM and USFS) | California | 2016 | 154,000 |
| Sonoran Desert | Arizona | 2001 | 486,149 |
| Upper Missouri River Breaks | Montana | 2001 | 377,346 |

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|------------------|---------|------|---------|
| Vermilion Cliffs | Arizona | 2000 | 279,568 |
|------------------|---------|------|---------|